

**CLAIMS**

1. A gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element including at least one radial extending wall having a thickness of from 0.1 to 4mm.
- 5 2. A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said element comprises two axially spaced, radially extending walls.
3. A gland plate according to claim 2 when said element further includes inner and outer circumferential walls extending between said radially extending walls.
- 10 4. A gland plate according to claim 3 when said element is a hollow structure.
5. A gland plate according to claim 3 when said element is filled with concrete, plastics or water.
- 15 6. A gland plate according to any of the preceding claims when said wall or walls are made of metal.
- 20 7. A gland plate according to claim 6 wherein said wall or walls are formed by a pressing operation.
8. A gland plate according to any of the preceding claims and including a first part providing a first radially extending wall and a second part providing a second radially extending wall, said first radially extending wall being axially spaced from said second radially extending wall.
- 25 9. A gland plate according to claim 8 wherein said first and second parts together provide inner and outer circumferential walls.
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10. A gland plate according to any of the preceding claims wherein the gland plate is provided with one or more through holes.
11. A gland plate according to claim 10 wherein the or each of said through holes  
5 is formed by a pressing or punching operation.
12. A gland plate according to claim 11 wherein material displaced when the or each of said holes is being formed provides a strengthening support around said hole.
- 10 13. A gland plate according to any of the preceding claims and in the form of a hollow structure having first and second radially extending walls wherein means are provided for feeding fluid through said gland plate.
14. A sealing arrangement having a gland plate as claimed in any of the preceding  
15 claims.
15. A mechanical seal having a gland plate as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.